

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 AID-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 TRSE-00

INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03

OMB-01 DODE-00 L-03 AGR-05 SS-15 /073 W

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P 170912Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9758

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 1649

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BM

SUBJECT: PROPOSED SUPPLY OF ADDITIONAL NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION
EQUIPMENT TO GUB

REF: STATE 137535

1. WHILE I HAD BEEN HOPING FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO NEGOTIATE TOWARD APPROVAL OF A LARGER FRACTION OF THE BURMESE REQUEST, I AM GLAD TO HAVE THE GENERALLY POSITIVE RESPONSE OF THE EA INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP TO THE GUB REQUEST, AS WELL AS SPECIFIC APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED RADIO PACKAGE. HOWEVER, IF WE ARE TO OBLIGATE FY75 FUNDS, I PRESUME WE MUST NEGOTIATE AMENDMENT TO CURRENT AGREEMENT BEFORE END OF JUNE. UPPER LEVELS OF GUB ARE CURRENTLY SOMEWHAT MORE PREOCCUPIED THAN USUAL WITH DOMESTIC PROBLEMS, AND IT MAY BE MORE THAN USUALLY DIFFICULT (AND MIGHT BE IMPOSSIBLE) TO GET NECESSARY CABINET APPROVAL STAFFED OUT. WOULD ACCORDINGLY APPRECIATE URGENT TRANSMISSION OF NEGOTIATING INSTRUCTIONS MENTIONED PARA 2 REFTEL.

2. IF AT THIS LATE DATE WE ARE TO GET NECESSARY GUB APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT BEFORE END OF MONTH, IT WILL PROBABLY BE NECESSARY TO ASK COLONEL TIN OO TO INTERVENE, AND THIS RAISES QUESTION OF WHAT TO TELL HIM ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE REST OF GUB REQUEST. REFTEL (PARA 3) SAYS WE SHOULD ENTER INTO DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WITHOUT COMMITTING USG TO PARTICULAR COURSE OF ACTION. I PRESUME IMPLICITLY
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ACTION IS WE SHOULD AVOID PROMISING THEM THE EQUIPMENT, WHICH WE

HAVE SO FAR AVOIDED DOING, AND WILL OF COURSE CONTINUE TO AVOID. HOWEVER, WE CAN HARDLY AVOID RAISING THEIR EXPECTATIONS, ALLOWING THEM TO HOPE THAT IF THEY GIVE US A STRONG JUSTIFICATION OR RATIONALE THEY WILL HAVE A GOOD CHANCE OF GETTING WHAT THEY ASK FOR. IT WOULD ACCORDINGLY BE MOST USEFUL TO US (STRICTLY FOR OUR OWN GUIDANCE) TO HAVE AS GOOD AN IDEA AS POSSIBLE OF THE LIMITATIONS, QUALITATIVE AS WELL AS QUANTITATIVE, ON THE ASSISTANCE THAT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE.

3. SUBJECT TO DEPARTMENT'S FURTHER GUIDANCE, I WOULD PROPOSE TO STATE POSITION TO COLONEL TIN OO ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: "CONCERNED AGENCIES IN WASHINGTON HAVE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO THE AMENDMENT OF THE HELICOPTER AGREEMENT TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE BURMA PROGRAM, SUBJECT TO SPECIFIC APPROVAL OF THE EQUIPMENT REQUESTED. UNFORTUNATELY, WITH CURRENT FISCAL YEAR LIMITATIONS IT HAS BEEN POSSIBLE TO APPROVE SPECIFICALLY ONLY THE REQUEST FOR RADIOS. OTHER ITEMS ON THE LIST WHICH YOU SUBMITTED WERE OF SUCH A COST AND NATURE THAT THEY WILL REQUIRE FURTHER CONSIDERATION ON THE BASIS OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SOME OF WHICH WE HAVE, SOME OF WHICH WE HOPE YOUR EXPERTS CAN SUPPLY TO OUR TECHNICAL EXPERTS." I WOULD THEN PARAPHRASE PERTINENT SENTENCES OF PARAS 4, 5, AND 6, REFTEL.

4. I WOULD PROPOSE TO TURN THE DETAILED DISCUSSIONS OVER TO AN EXPERTS GROUP COMPOSED, ON THE EMBASSY'S SIDE, OF CONCERNED DATT AS WELL AS CIVILIAN PERSONNEL, WHO WOULD BE ABLE TO ELICIT THE GUB POSITION IN WHATEVER DETAIL IS NECESSARY.
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